

## **Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 3 February 2015**

### **Attending:**

Committee Members: Julie Mayfield, Adam Charnack, Bruce Emory, Calvin Allen, David Wilson, Tom Tomlin, Charlton Owens

City Staff: Ken Putnam, Yuri Koslen, Greg Godwin, Rose Christian, Martha McGlohon, Gwen Wisler

Community Members: Tim Sadler, Laurel Thomas, Jared Kay

Julie opened the meeting at 3:30.

### **Jan. 6, 2015 Minutes**

Bruce moved approval and Tom seconded. David moved and Julie seconded an amendment to delete the words “or unwilling” from the first paragraph dealing with the December minutes; passed unanimously. David proposed two other amendments, but both died for lack of a second. Original motion passed by voice vote.

### **Public Comment I**

Laurel Thomas would like to see more frequent bus service.

Tim Sadler suggested including the encouragement of transit use by employees as a criteria for green certification programs such as B Corp. He also suggested that developers include transit passes for residents, as was done recently for the proposed apartments on Hazel Mill Road.

### **TC Experiences Riding the Bus**

Tom rode new routes S5 and W5, and was impressed with the ridership; S5 was overcrowded.

David commented on the difficulty of using S3 from the Airport, given the long headway. He also said that making a transfer from E2 to W3 is difficult on the first morning trip.

Adam commented on high ridership on W5, and on W1 (bus had to skip some stops).

Julie commented favorably on the new drivers on her routes since the January schedule change.

Bruce cited the need for enforcing no smoking in the area near the dispatcher’s parking area at the ART Station. He also commented on discrepancies and incomplete information in the timetables regarding Sunday schedules.

Calvin commented on good ridership despite inclement weather.

### **New Business**

#### **New Committee Members:**

Julie reported that two of the prior candidates are no longer interested: Inkwa Ewart and Ulla Reeves.

Committee members commented on and expressed their preferences among the remaining six candidates, with the following result: 4 votes each for Brooke German and Ed Johnson; two votes for Mary Topper; one vote for Lauren Noto. Julie will contact the two top candidates to confirm their interest, and will inform the Committee by e-mail, so that a recommendation can be made to the MMTC prior to their Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Mobile Ticketing:**

Ken Putnam described a potential new method for fare payment utilizing smart phones, similar in some ways to the Passport parking fee system that the City has used for the last three years. After discussion, the Committee endorsed a six-month pilot program for the new system (Adam moved, David seconded).

### **Old Business**

#### **e-cigarettes:**

Martha reviewed the legal status of regulating smoking and e-cigarettes, and presented a draft City ordinance that would impose the same restrictions on e-cigarettes as on regular cigarettes. Bruce moved and Tom seconded that a motion endorsing the proposed ordinance.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Adam suggested, and the Committee concurred, that in the interest of saving time, any member who wants to amend the minutes of the prior meeting should send out the proposed amendment by e-mail prior to the next meeting, or at least be prepared with specific wording for the amendment.

**Transit Committee Goals:**

Charlton introduce Jared Kay, with Amplified Media, a company that produces TV/video commercials. After discussion of the types of products that might be applicable for transit marketing, and a description of the current funding constraints, Jared agreed to prepare a proposal for a range of possible products.

Yuri described the City Communications staff's position concerning Facebook pages: the pages must state that they are not official City media.

No major progress reported on other goals.

**Groceries on bus:**

Subcommittee will meet next Thursday.

**FY16 Transit Priority Setting:**

Yuri described a handout with additional information that the Committee had requested. The Committee agreed to lobby City Council members individually to encourage them to approve funding for the top priority items. Bruce will contact Marc Hunt and Gordon Smith; Adam will contact Jan Davis; Calvin will contact Gwen Wisler; Julie will contact Esther Mannheimer; she will contact Tom and Charlton (who had to leave early) to determine who will contact Cecil Bothwell and Chris Pelly.

**Policies:**

Julie reported on progress in developing a comprehensive list of policies regarding riders and drivers. The final draft should be presented to the Committee in March or April.

**Staff Updates**

The staff reports were included in the package, but were not reviewed in detail due to the late time. Yuri reported that Sunday ridership is increasing steadily.

**Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting (3 March 2015)**

New members, if needed  
Transit Committee Goals  
Policies for riders/drivers/ART  
Groceries on bus  
Advocacy on transit priorities with Council

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.